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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3rd ESC Release # 090722-20 July 29, 2009

Logistics Soldiers train Iraqis in fuel, ammunition

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Dyrcz 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, have a unique mission.

The Soldiers provide logistical training and support for numerous American and Iraqi units in Kirkuk. This particular mission is designed to improve the relationship with 18th CSSB personnel located in Kirkuk who support the Logistics Training Advisory Team for the 4th Motorized Transportation Regiment of the Iraqi Army.

The training focuses on direct support maintenance, safe refueling methods and ammunition handling procedures.

"I was sent to assist and teach them how to properly receive, inventory, store and ship future ammunition shipments," said Staff Sgt. Charles Price, ammunitions non-commissioned officer.

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The Sandford, Maine, native is responsible for advising LTAT members and the Iraqi Army on ammunition handling procedures. He was also responsible for advising and supervising the utilization of a new ammunition storage bunker for grenades and other sensitive explosives in order to ensure proper storage and management of explosives.

The bunker can store and receive up to 300 short-tons of ammunition for training and 200 short-tons of incoming shipments. The Iraqi Soldiers were also trained on properly disposing of ammunition such as methods of separating spent ammunition from live ammunition and understanding sensitive storage items.

"It is very important that they understand and follow the proper procedures of explosive safety and fire guidelines," commented Staff Sgt. Price.

Sgt. 1st Class Irvin L. Moultry, a native of Tallahassee, Fla., is the battalion's bulk and retail fuel non-commissioned officer in charge.

"(The Kirkuk area) is still undergoing construction of a new fuel distribution point," Moultry said. "Once completed, it will be able to store 400,000 liters of diesel and 200,000 liters of Benzene."

The unit is not cutting any corners on safety, Moultry said.

"Safety equipment, such as eye washing stations and fire suppression systems, will be implemented in the upgraded fuel point," said Moultry.

The fuel point, once completed, will safely supply what the Army calls "class III," or fuel, to the K-1 command and the 4th MTR. The new fuel point will help reduce the amount of waste and corruption in usage, establish a strategic reserve of fuel for future use, as well as provide spillage containment areas and new traffic lanes.



Sgt. 1st Class Irvin Moultry, bulk and retail fuel non-commissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Staff Sgt. Charles Price, ammunitions non-commissioned officer, HHC, 18th CSSB, pose by a battalion "T-wall" at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, Iraq, July 5. The Soldiers provide logistical training and support for numerous American and Iraqi units in Kirkuk. This particular mission is designed to improve the relationship with 18th CSSB personnel located in Kirkuk who support the

Logistics Training Advisory Team for the 4th Motorized Transportation Regiment of the Iraqi Army. The training focuses on direct support maintenance, safe refueling methods and ammunition handling procedures. (Photo by Capt. Natalia Mercedes-Williams)